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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/829,041 | 04/21/2004 | Kazuhiko Nimura | FP04-007US | 7407 |
| 1218 | 7590 | 05/26/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016 | | | ZARROLI, MICHAEL C | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 2839 | | |

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | 10/829,041 | NIMURA, KAZUHIKO |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| Michael C. Zarroli | 2839 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 10-16 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 17-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 7 and 9 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/21/04. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4, 17-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ichio et al.

Ichio discloses a connector (10) comprising; at least one terminal accommodating space (13) for accommodating at least one terminal fitting (41), a wire accommodating space (18A) communicating with the terminal accommodating space (fig. 8) and configured to accommodate at least part of a wire (45) connected with the terminal fitting (fig. 15) and bent substantially into an L-shape, and a bite-in portion (50, 51) formed on an inner surface of the wire accommodating space (fig. 15) for plastically deforming at least part of the wire by biting in a bent portion of the wire (unnumbered fig. 15).

Regarding claims 2 and 18 Ichio discloses that the bite-in portion is disposed to bite in the bent portion of the wire at a position of an inner side with respect to bending (fig. 15 at 13A line axis).

Regarding claim 3 Ichio discloses that the terminal accommodating space accommodates the terminal fitting with a longitudinal axis of the terminal fitting substantially aligned with forward and backward directions (FBD) of the connector (fig. 15 horizontal axis, left to right).

Regarding claim 4 Ichio discloses that the section of the wire from a biting position of the bite-in portion to a connected position (42) with the terminal fitting is substantially straight (fig. 18).

3. Claims 8 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabata.

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Tabata discloses a connector (fig. 3), comprising: at least one terminal accommodating space (11) for at least partly accommodating at least one terminal fitting (13), a wire accommodating space (34S) communicating with the terminal accommodating space (fig. 4) and adapted to accommodate at least part of a wire (15A) connected with the terminal fitting so that the wire has bent portion (unnumbered fig. 4) bent substantially into an L-shape, and a locking section (21D) on an inner surface of the wire accommodating space for engaging a portion of the wire (fig. 4) extending from the bent portion towards a side (34) opposite the terminal fitting for substantially preventing longitudinal displacement of the wire.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5 and 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichio et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kanagawa. Ichio does not disclose that an outer layer of the bent portion is partially removed.

Regarding claim 5 Kanagawa discloses a wire (10) has an outer layer (12) that is at least partly removed at a bent portion (fig. 1) of the wire to lower the diameter of the wire.

Regarding claim 6 Kanagawa discloses a wire (10) has an inner conductor (11), a core (33) made of an insulating material around the inner conductor, an outer conductor (13) around the core, and a sheath (12) made of an insulating material around the outer conductor, the sheath being at least partly stripped at the bent portion (fig. 7) to at least partly expose the outer conductor.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the wire of Kanagawa in the device of Ichio. The motivation for this change would be to have an added grounding circuitry.

6. Claim 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichio et al as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Kanagawa.

Ichio does not disclose that an outer layer of the bent portion is partially removed. Kanagawa discloses (fig. 1) removing at least part of an outer layer of a wire (10) at a location to align at least partly with a bent portion (at 33 fig. 1) of the wire to lower the diameter of the wire before bending the wire.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the wire of Kanagawa in the device of Ichio. The motivation for this change would be to have an added grounding circuitry and easier bending.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 10-16 are allowed over the prior art of record.
8. Claims 7 and 9 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form **including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.**
9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 7 the bite in portion projecting from the sheath contact portion by a distance equal to the radial thickness of the sheath. Regarding claim 9 the locking section engaged with the exposed end surface. Regarding claim 10 the projection projecting into the wire accommodating space a distance equal to the radial dimension of the sheath for engaging portions of the wire with the sheath removed.

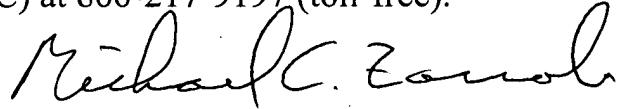
Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yen and Konoya et al teach a wire in an accommodating space with a projection.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

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